

REMARKS

Reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims, in view of the following remarks, are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action of March 21, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Carter '309 (U.S. Publication Application No. 2002/0194309) in view of Toshiharu '469 (Japanese Publication No. 2000-311469); and claims 4-5 were rejected, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Carter in view of Wipe-O-Mat.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant points out that the above-mentioned Office Action was *never* received by our firm, as evidenced by the status inquiries filed on June 27, 2006 and September 16, 2006. The Examiner admitted in the Notice of Abandonment of November 21, 2006, that the status inquiries were received but left unanswered. As such, Applicant is filing a Petition to Revive an Abandoned Application, under 37 C.F.R. §1.137, submitted concurrently herewith, to revive the present application.

With this said, Applicant submits that, by this Amendment, independent claim 4 has been amended to provide a clearer presentation of the claimed subject matter and claims 1-3 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. As such, claims 4-5 are currently presented for examination of which claim 4 is the sole independent claim.

Insofar as the prior art rejections are still deemed relevant in view of the claim changes, Applicant traverses the rejections under §103(a) for the following reasons.

I. Prior Art Rejections.

As noted above, independent claim 4 positively recites, *inter alia*, positively recites that the deletion control unit deletes all pieces of contents information recorded on the first information recording medium and second information recording medium by selecting a first contents deletion mode after execution of the all deletion mode. Independent claim 4 further positively recites that the deletion control unit deletes all pieces of contents information recorded on the second information recording medium by selecting a second contents deletion mode after execution of the all deletion mode.

These claimed features are amply supported by the embodiments disclosed in the written description. For example, the disclosed embodiments provide different options that enable a user to selectively delete all library information, all contents recorded on a first recording medium, and/or all contents recorded on a second recording medium. In particular, if the deletion of all library information and all first and second recording medium contents is desired, the user selects the all deletion mode and then the first contents deletion mode. If the deletion of all library information and all second recording medium contents is desired, the user selects the all deletion mode and then the second contents deletion mode. (*See*, Specification: FIG. 7).

In this manner, by selecting the second contents deletion mode, contents can be deleted independently of the deletion of library information. Such a configuration provides the user with the flexibility of selecting the deletion of library information content or the deletion of content that is not associated with the library information.

Applicant submits that, in dramatic contrast to the claimed invention, none of the asserted references, whether taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest each and every element of claim 1, including the features identified above. That is, as best understood, there is simply nothing in Carter '309, Toshiharu '469, or Wipe-O-Mat suggesting that the deletion control unit deletes all pieces of contents information recorded on the first information recording medium and second information recording medium by selecting a first contents deletion mode after execution of the all deletion mode, as required by claim 4. Nor is there anything in these references suggesting that the deletion control unit deletes all pieces of contents information recorded on the second information recording medium by selecting a second contents deletion mode after execution of the all deletion mode, as also required by claim 4.

For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that the none of the asserted references, whether taken alone or in reasonable combination, teach or suggest the claimed combination of elements recited by amended claim 1. As such, claim 4 is clearly patentable. Because claim 5 depends from claim 4, claim 5 is at least patentable by virtue of dependency as well as for its additional recitations. Accordingly, the immediate withdrawal of the prior art rejections of claims 4-5 is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion.

All matters having been addressed and in view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the immediate allowance of all pending claims.

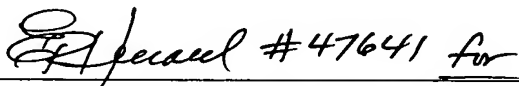
Applicant's Counsel remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this matter. If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the Undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 03-3975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP

By:  #47641 for
JEFFREY D. KARCESKI
Reg. No. 35914
Tel. No. 202.663.8403
Fax No. 703.770.7901

Date: January 24, 2007
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 770-7900